The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 2,56,416 under Demand X—Public Health and Sanitation was put and carried.

The Demand was passed and the grant was made.

DEMAND XI—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING WATER WORKS AND DRAINAGE

MR. S SESHA AIYAR (*Deputy Chief Engineer*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 58,88,962 under Demand XI—Public Works Department including Waterwerks and Drainage.

Motion No. 394.

The following motion was not moved :

MR. P. S. MUHAMED :

"To reduce the allotment of 4,800 for salaries by Re. 1."

Motion No. 395.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Thovala* cum *Agastiswaram*): Sir, I beg to reduce the allotment of Rs. 36,147 for establishment by Re. 1 to discuss the vagaries committed by the head of the department in giving effect to confirmation and promotions of members of the Ministerial Establishment of the P. W. D. In the Chief Engineer's Office, the ratio of 3 :1 of graduates and undergraduates is not maintained. This ratio was not applied on the last occasion when confirmations and promotions were made there. An undergraduate clerk who passed the Account Test Examination was given preference. There were many graduates passing Divisional Test and Account Test. The principle laid down by the G. O. is not followed. There is no up-to-date gradation list in the Chief Engineer's office. These are some of the vagaries committed by the head of the department. Therefore I move this motion for the acceptance of this House.

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR : There are definite rules with regard to the promotion and confirmation of the ministerial staff in the P. W. D. and these are common with the ministerial staff in other departments of the Government. Appointments to Rs. 20-25 scale are made by the Public Service Commissioner by direct recruitment. For promotions to the Rs. 25-40 scale and upwards rules are the main guide. Promotions are regulated in the ratio of 3 : 1 between graduates and non-graduates in the order of seniority of clerks. Promotions to the next higher grade *i. e.*, Rs. 40-70 will be given to those who pass the Travancore Account Test and Divisional Test Examinations. There also, the ratio of 3 : 1 between graduates and non-graduates is maintained. Promotions to the next higher grade *i. e.*, Rs. 75-100 shall ordinarily be made in the order of seniority, the proportion of graduates and non-graduates being maintained as before. The above rules have been almost strictly followed in the matter of confirmations and promotions in the ministerial staff that have been done recently. But in certain cases clerks

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[Mr. S. Sesha Aiyar]

who have passed only one test *i. e*, the Travancore Account Test had to be given temporary promotion because of their long service and experience. Necessary sanction of Government has also been obtained. The temporary promotions were not given effect to according to the will of the head of the department. It was done with the sanction of Government. It would mean sacrifice of efficiency if we promote a clerk on Rs. 20-25 simply because he is senior and has no experience in accountancy. Similarly some exceptions were made with special sanction of Government for the sake of efficiency. It may thus be seen that promotions and confirmations are made only in conformity with rules and consistent with efficiency and that with the special sanction of Government. With this explanation, I believe, the honourable member will be satisfied.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether there were belated cases of confirmations and promotions?

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR: Yes, there are few cases. That was on account of the several complications that arose in the cases.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know what those complications were?

PRESIDENT: The rule is inflexible that when one honourable member stands up the other honourable member sits down or does not yield his place. But Government members are expected, as a matter of courtesy, to resume their seats as soon as a non-official member rises to ask a question.

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR: One of the rule for promotion is with regard to the ratio between graduates and non-graduates. For any exceptions to this we had to get special sanction of Government after bringing the fact to their notice. That caused some delay in such particular cases. There are other instances where we had to take special sanction of Government, as I said, to ensure proper efficiency in service.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: I beg permission of the House to withdraw the motion.

The motion, by leave, was withdrawn.

Motion Nos. 396 and 397.

The following motions were not moved:

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI:

396. "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for Travelling Allowance by Re. 1."

MR M. RAMIAH PILLAI:

397. "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for Travelling Allowance by Re. 1."

Motion No. 398.

MR. M. RAMIAH PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I beg to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for Travelling Allowance by Re. 1 "to bring to the attention of Government the urgent necessity of opening a road from Aruvikkara Reservoir to Vellanad". I need not say that Aruvikkara is one of the most important places in Travancore. Aruvikkara is the place from where the life-giving water is supplied to the whole of Trivandrum. People of Aruvikkara want

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means of communication from that place to Vellanad. People of that locality have been praying for a road for a quarter of a century. The poor ryots find it very difficult to dispose of their commodities as they have to walk atleast 5 miles to site a road. For instance, if we go two miles interior from Aruvikara on the way to Vellanad there is a place called Kadambanad. That is a place surrounded by wet lands and hilly tracts. That particular locality is best suited for agriculture. In that place alone there are more than 100-150 houses and almost all are tax payers. If the Chief Engineer or any responsible officer visits that place he would be convinced of the nature of the hardship that the poor agriculturist have to face in that particular locality. If a road is opened from Aruvikkara to Velland, the travelling public from Trivandrum to Vellanad can save at east 7 to 8 miles. The new road that I requst to open from Aruvikkara to Vellanad will be 3 to 3½ miles in length. A traveller from Trivandrum to Vellanad will have now to go to Nedumangad first and then to Vellanad *i. e.*, a distance of nearly 17 miles. Above all, the poor agriculturists toiling for livelihood to get their daily necessities have to go 4 to 5 miles in any direction to get their provisions. So, the only request that I can make to Government is to consider the seriousness of the need and the Chief Engineer will find provision for the purpose in the next year's budget. With these words I move the motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR (*Deputy Chief Engineer*): The need for this road was moved by people from some time earlier than this. The distance between Aruvikkara and Vellanad, as stated by the member is about 3 miles. But it is found that just after Aruvikkara we have to negotiate a very steep hill and the road will have to be taken in deep cutting costing a very large amount of money. All the same, investigations were made. Petitions were originally received from the people owning lands saying that they would part with the lands free of compensation. Those petitions were taken to the spot and on verification it was found that the land owners were not willing to part with the lands and so we have referred the matter to the Land Revenue Department to verify if the people could be made to part with those lands free of compensation and receive statements to the effect.

After this is done an estimate for constructing this road will be prepared and the work will be carried out when funds become available.

MR. M. RAMIAH PILLAI: Sir, in view of the satisfactory reply given by the Deputy Chief Engineer, I withdraw the motion.

The motion, by leave, was withdrawn.

Motion No. 399.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Sir, I beg to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for travelling allowance for Chief Engineer by Rs. 10—to discuss about the necessity of his travel through water-logged and sandy areas to convince himself of the necessity of making roads and canals in the taluks of Ambalapuzha and

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[Mr. N. Narayana Kurup.]

Shertallai. Sir, the object, as stated here, is to bring to the notice of this House and the Government that the head of the department should travel along the interior of the country so that his travel may be really useful to the people at large. If he travels throughout the length and breadth of the country, he will be able to know the respective local needs and then try to improve the conditions of the villages by giving them adequate communications and other facilities. Sir, firstly, I beg to submit that all the roads that we have, are quite useless. I would request the President to approach the Dewan with the request to make surprise visits along the roads to see the conditions of our public roads. The gravel in these roads get loosened within two or three months after it has been laid and thereafter the motor traffic in these roads become almost impossible. Such is the condition of the roads.

Let me now come to the local needs of my constituency. I have already submitted that my constituency is composed of water-logged and sandy areas. Sir, we were under the impression that the Chief Secretary would show some local patriotism in this affair, but we are sadly disappointed. So, we are making this request to the P. W. D. and to the Government. Sir, I have to submit, in this connection, that the Chief Engineer, who unfortunately is not amidst us now has a very peculiar knack of seeing that everything is half done. For instance, there are two village roads in my constituency; one is the Alleppey—Thanneermukkom road and the other the Ambalapuzha-Thiruvalla road. Both were begun some ten years ago. But the Alleppey—Thanneermukkom road has now been finished except a distance of five miles the middle through sands. So long as the road is incomplete, the people of the locality will find it impossible to take their produce to the several markets. Then, coming to the other road, this also is ten years old. It is regrettable to note that only a portion of this road has been finished as yet, and even that portion is not now serviceable, being half finished. During flood time, whatever repair that was effected, would be destroyed by the water. Unless the whole road is finished and completed as early as possible no useful purpose will be served by it.

Sir, we are in need of another small road, that is a short road from Kokkothamangalam to Chenganda in Shertallai. The length of the road is about 1½ furlongs. Here also, the Chief Engineer's ingenuity of leaving things half finished is seen. Only half a furlong of this road has been finished and it is now three years since this work has been carried out. There was a bridge in the Chenganda river. It is now 16 or 17 years since this bridge has been dismantled. Even though repeated representations were made, the department has not cared for it. It must be completed.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I see that following on this there are a series of motions, the bulk of which relate to the local needs of constituencies. I see that one or other members have certain urgent

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needs to be looked into by the department. After a careful consideration of this matter, Government have come to the conclusion that perhaps the best way of dealing with this question is to constitute an Advisory Committee of nine members, four to be elected by this House, two by the other House and three to be nominated by the Government who will advise the P. W. D. with regard to matters of local needs and in carrying out a general programme. Steps will be taken for the election being conducted after the business for the day is over.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: That is the very thing I was going to suggest. The P. W. D. has not been consulting the members of this Legislature. Therefore if an Advisory Committee, as the President...

PRESIDENT: If, as a matter of fact, a general programme of the requirements of the village, such as roads, wells and other things is laid down by the Advisory Committee, naturally it will help the Government to fix a regular programme. In addition, there will be additional champions in the House to help the department. whereas the Departmental Head is now simply handicapped.

Under these circumstances, do you want to go through the motion?

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER: Sir.....

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, I have not finished.

PRESIDENT: I thought you had finished. Please go on.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, in view of the suggestion made by the President, I don't enumerate the list of the needs in my constituency. But the department may be directed at least this year to finish those incomplete works which I have mentioned above. I also wish to bring to the notice of this House that the department is very slow in doing things. Even if an Advisory Committee comes into existence, if the department is not very active in the execution of their works, especially in such matters as taking possession of grounds surrendered by the people no useful purpose will be served by that committee. Some direction has to be given to the P. W. D. to expidite the matters.

I have to mention about one road in particular namely the road that branches off from 43rd mile in the Quilon—Alleppey road and leading to the southern gate of the Sri Krishna temple at Ambalapuzha. The people, at their cost, have raised the level of this road. The department may be directed to provide fund for the road even this year. There is yet another road namely *Arattuvazhi* in south Aryadu which is about three-fourths of a mile long. The people have surrendered the lands some six months ago and made a representation that some provision should be made for this road in this year's budget. I believe that the Executive Engineer had included this in his budget for 1115. But the Chief Engineer has left it out of his budget. Any way, Sir, that road is most essential for communication of the agriculturists in that locality which is very thickly populated. So also, the Erothodu in Punnappura, about a furlong to reach the road is very essential for the people. The department may be advised to help us soon in the matters referred to above.

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MR. E. P. VARUGHESE (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): Sir, I am going to add one more local need of the Shertallai people. It is now more than 12 years since the Shertallai—Arattunkel road has been constructed. But, because of the want of a bridge the road is not fully utilised by the public. I just want to bring this to the notice of the Chief Engineer. The construction of the bridge is not a very costly problem. But its use is great. I only want that this should not be lost sight of owing to the efflux of time.

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR: Sir, it would be the earnest endeavour of this department to complete the incomplete works as far as possible. Because we are going to have an Advisory Committee, who will help us in securing lands and in other respects, it will expedite our work and I hope it will be possible to complete most of the works which have been taken up, so as to utilise the funds available at our disposal. We have allotted sufficient money for incomplete roads. We will try our best to see that the whole of this amount is spent and that the roads completed as soon as possible.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: Sir, I do not press the motion.

The motion, by leave, was withdrawn.

Motion No. 400

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKER (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnthur*): Sir, I am satisfied with the proposal of the Government to constitute a committee to go into the details of the improvement of communications. So I do not wish to move the motion standing in my name.

Motion Nos. 401 and 402.

The following motions were not moved :-

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI :

401. "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1."

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHY :

402. "To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1."

Motion No. 403.

MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHI: Sir, I beg to move to reduce the allotment of rupees 4,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1 to discuss about the local needs. Sir, in this connection, I wish to point out that there is the necessity of a bridge across the Meenachil river. With this object I move this motion.

PRESIDENT: I think the honourable member will find that the question of rural bridges and roads will also be dealt with by the Committee.

MR. S. SESHA AIYAR: Sir, the honourable member is speaking about the bridge at Palai. This is a very costly bridge. The work was once started but was given up. Provided funds are available we may be able to take up the work very soon, though not in 1116, in the nearest possible date.

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MR. P. V. MATHAI CHEMPARATHI: I withdraw the motion.

The motion, by leave, was withdrawn.

Motion No. 404.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I don't move cut motion No. 404.

Motion No. 405.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Sir, I beg to move to reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for travelling allowance by Re 1 to point out the urgency for improving the irrigation tanks in Chirayinkil and Nedumangad taluks.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 O'clock on Monday.

The House adjourned at 5 p. m.

A. GUNAMONY,
Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.

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